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PATENT

Attorney Docket: 708-A01-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: HAROLD RICHARDSON CREWS ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/766,372

Group Art Unit: 1641

Filed: January 19, 2001

Examiner: GABEL, Gailene

Title: **MULTI-PURPOSE REAGENT SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
ENUMERATION OF RED BLOOD CELLS, WHITE BLOOD CELLS AND  
THROMBOCYTES AND DIFFERENTIAL DETERMINATION OF WHITE  
BLOOD CELLS**

**RESPONSE**

In response to the Office Action of October 6, 2003, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I, including claims 1-3 and 18-20 for further prosecution. It is respectfully pointed out that claims 10-12 were improperly grouped in Group III, claims 7-11, and were improperly grouped in Group IV, claims 8, 12 because these claims 10-12 are directed to a lytic reagent composition and are **not directed** to a kit. As such, claim 10-12 more properly belong with claims 1-3 and 18-20 directed toward a stromatolysing reagent, which is another name for a lytic reagent. Accordingly, it is strongly urged that the formulation of the restriction requirement be redrawn so that Group I includes claims 1-3, 10-12 and 18-20.

Respectfully Submitted,

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